

Appl. No.: 10/533,344  
Reply to Office Action of: 08/16/2007

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OCT 24 2007

Amendments to the Claims:

No changes have been made to the claims. The claims are merely repeated below for convenience.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A connector for at least one flat flex cable comprising:

a housing comprising at least one introduction opening for a flat flex cable end,

spring contacts connected to the housing for connecting the at least one flat flex cable with contacts or another flat flex cable, and

at least one strain relief, wherein the strain relief has a slide, which is adapted to be introduced into the introduction opening over the flat flex cable in a direction at least partially along an introduction direction of the flat flex cable into the introduction opening, wherein the flat flex cable is bent by a rib on the slide into a recess at a bottom of the housing proximate the introduction opening until the slide locks in a final position on the housing.

2. (Previously presented) The connector according to claim 1, further characterized in that the slide forms a ramp, whose back end projects above a level of the opening during introduction into the opening and slides on the upper edge of the introduction opening, whereby the rib is pressed into the recess.

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3. (Previously presented) The connector according to claim 1, further characterized in that the slide has, on a back end of the slide, an operating surface for pressing the slide in, wherein an upper edge of the slide comprises a shoulder for locking of a ramp of the slide.

4. (Previously presented) The connector according to claim 1, further characterized in that the spring contacts, at a head end of the introduction opening, are prestressed perpendicular to longitudinal axis press on regions of conductive tracks of the flat flex cable that are stripped of insulation.

5. (Previously presented) The connector according to claim 4, further characterized in that the spring contacts are essentially bent in U-shape and comprise legs which are pressed onto the flat flex cable by two ramps on the slide.

6. (Previously presented) The connector according to claim 4, further characterized in that the spring contacts are formed with ends pointing away from the introduction opening as female connectors or plug contacts.

7. (Withdrawn) The connector according to claim 4, further characterized in that the spring contacts are bent in U-shape at both of their ends and two introduction openings are disposed with their head ends abutting one another in housing for connecting two flat flex cables.

8. (Withdrawn) The connector according to claim 1, further characterized in that the introduction opening takes up two flat flex cables, and two rows of spring contacts are provided one above the other.

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9. (Withdrawn) The connector according to claim 8, further characterized in that the spring contacts are held by an intermediate member in the introduction opening, and this member can be moved to the head end of the introduction opening by a slider and can be propped open at its back ends, in order to press strain relief projections disposed therein into corresponding openings punched in the flat flex cables.

10. (Withdrawn) The connector according to claim 9, further characterized in that at the level of openings in the flat flex cables, housing has slots, into which the strain relief projections of intermediate member can be moved.

11. (Withdrawn) The connector according to claim 8, further characterized in that the spring contacts are bent convexly at their legs that can be pressed onto flat flex cables and are pressed by shoulders of intermediate member onto the flat flex cables.

12. (Withdrawn) The connector according to claim 11, further characterized in that on its head end, the intermediate member has ramps, with which the legs of spring contacts located away from the flat flex cables are to be pressed onto the flat flex cables.

13. (Withdrawn) The connector according to claim 8, further characterized in that the slide can be locked in its final position on housing.

14. (Previously presented) The connector according to claim 1 wherein the introduction opening comprises a slot into a rear

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end of the housing, wherein the strain relief is inserted into the slot through the rear end of the housing.

15. (Previously presented) The connector according to claim 1 wherein the strain relief comprises a slot adapted to receive the end of the flat flex cable.

16. (Previously presented) A connector for a flat flex cable comprising:

a housing comprising an opening adapted to receive an end of the flat flex cable;

spring contacts connected to the housing, wherein the spring contacts are adapted to connect to electrical conductors of the flat flex cable; and

at least one strain relief connected to the housing, wherein the strain relief comprises a slide extending through the opening, wherein the strain relief comprises a slot adapted to have the end of the flat flex cable pass therethrough, wherein the slide comprises a rib, and wherein the flat flex cable is bent by the rib on the slide into a recess of the housing when the slide is locked into a final position on the housing.

17. (Previously presented) A connector for a flat flex cable comprising:

a housing comprising a rear side having a slot adapted to receive an end of the flat flex cable;

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spring contacts connected to the housing, wherein the spring contacts are adapted to connect to electrical conductors of the flat flex cable; and

at least one strain relief extending into the rear side of the housing at the slot, wherein the strain relief is movably connected to the housing such that the strain relief is adapted to be pushed inward into the rear side of the housing, wherein the strain relief comprises a slide having a rib, and wherein the rib is adapted to bend the flat flex cable into a recess of the housing when the slide is slid through the rear side of the housing into the slot.

18. (Previously presented) The connector according to claim 17 wherein the strain relief comprises a slot adapted to pass the end of the flat flex cable therethrough.

19. (Previously presented) The connector according to claim 17 wherein the slide comprises a ramp adapted to contact the housing and adapted to move the slide in a second direction when the strain relief is moved in a first direction inward into the rear side of the housing.

20. (Previously presented) The connector according to claim 17 wherein the strain relieve comprises a latch for latching the slide in a final position on the strain relief.